high degree of resistance as the result of repeated exposure to infection. Enteritis and diarrhea are responsible for a high [165] mortality in infancy and early childhood.

Many persons harbor at least one species of intestinal worms. Occasional cases of tapeworm infection have been recorded, but the species was not specified. Ancylostomiasis and schistosomiasis are not known to occur.

Diseases Spread Chiefly Through the Respiratory Tract

Tuberculosis is a major problem, and, as elsewhere, the poor nutrition, the overcrowded living quarters and the unhygienic habits of the people favor the spread of the infection. Pulmonary tuberculosis apparently predominates, but other forms of the disease are frequent.

Pneumonia and influenza are prominent, especially during the winter months, when the palm thatch huts provide slight protection against the changeable weather conditions. Respiratory infections are regarded as an occupational hazard among the pearling crews.

Epidemics of smallpox are recurrent, and a large percentage of the children show pockmarks indicative of previous infection. Measles, mumps, chickenpox and other respiratory diseases of childhood are endemic.

Diseases Spread or Contracted Chiefly Through Contact

Gonorrhea is widespread, and serious complications due to local methods of treatment are said to be numerous. Syphilis is common, but the extent of infection is uncertain. Cases of soft chancre also are reported.

Trachoma is one of the most frequent diseases in this area, affecting a large percentage of the population. Trichiasis, corneal ulcers and other serious manifestations of the infection are often seen. Conjunctivitis is general; many cases probably are infectious in origin, and all undoubtedly are aggravated by the sand-laden winds.